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Virtual program continues to combat social isolation

HOLYOKE – On Thursday, October 1 at 6:30 p.m., Wistariahurst's Live, Virtual Program Series continues with Holyoke's Continental Connection: Belle Skinner and the Rebuilding of Interwar France with Joe Maspo.

SOCIAL, 2



An HCC student holds up flags from Mexico and Paraguay during a Hispanic Heritage Month celebration on campus in October 2019.

Submitted photo

HCC celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month during this pandemic year with a series of online events that includes cooking demonstrations, lectures on the ethnic and political history of Holyoke, exhibits and conversations on public art, and a student panel examining the shared heritage of Black and Latinx people.

HISPANIC, 6

Coalition makes recommendations to state's design

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Soldiers' Home Coalition met last week with the Payette architectural design team and made recommendations for the first phase of the expedited capital project for a new Soldiers' Home in Holyoke.

The meeting on Sept. 15 was conducted as part of the process for the state to receive information from key stakeholders, to include the Veteran community, in reimagining the future of the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke.

COALITION, 9

Boys & Girls Club providing programming amid pandemic

Childcare is available with the program

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The Boys and Girls club of Greater Holyoke is dedicated to offering support to its patrons amidst the global pandemic and the hurdles that come with it.

The club announced that it is going to do whatever it takes to provide support services to the youth that attends the facility. Including full-day childcare and learning pod programs where kids can safely gain access to computers for online learning. Additionally, kids will receive support from club staff for academics, the staff also provides social and emotional support to kids throughout the day.

Staff members give support throughout the school day and will help kids to transition from school to traditional club activities and programs. The club has after school programs and enrichment activities in the afternoon. These activities are socially distanced and follow guidelines to keep kids safe.

Staff member Justin Bresnahan explained the enrichment programs the club offers.

"Going forward in the fall we will have a number of safe distanced activities scheduled such as cooking, boxing, dancing and continuing our partnership with Eagle Eye Institute to educate the youth on nature within the city," Bresnahan said. "Lots of these activities have been modified to adhere to COVID safety regulations."

The club is offering support services including child-

care, internet and technical support, lunch, enrichment, and the ability to have kids safely interact with youth their own age during this pandemic. "We have many activities for the youth to grow and new opportunities to learn are always knocking at our door," Bresnahan said. The club offers full day childcare, which consists of kids arriving no later than 8 a.m. and eating a light breakfast if they choose before jumping right into classes for the day.

"We have internet at every point of our building and technical support for when things go awry," Bresnahan said. "We provide lunch at 12 or 12:30 p.m. and back into remote learning for the remainder of their classes." After classes end snacks are provided and then the kids break into outdoor and enrich-

See PROGRAM, page 9

City tries to hatch hen ordinance

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The Ordinance Committee had a meeting with the Planning Board and the board of Health Chair Sean Gonsalves to address and discuss backyard chickens within the city. In an effort to enhance food access and food security for Holyoke residents during these uncertain times.

The committee didn't make a vote during this meeting but only opened a public discussion in which they spoke about updated language in a Hen Ordinance draft, the regulations for keeping hens, and the keeping of hens application. The item asks that the committee expedite a backyard chicken ordinance along with reviewing the permitting process for com-

See HEN, page 5

Free testing continues to be offered in Western Mass.

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

HOLYOKE – While testing has ended in Agawam, there are still locations close by where area residents can go for COVID-19 testing.

The state and the City of Holyoke asked Holyoke Community College if the college could house a COVID testing site, and they agreed. The free testing at the HCC campus is be served as a drive through station for all residents.

The campus has been offering testing since Aug. 26 and the city's board of health has extended the test site to Oct. 31. Though the site was supposed to stop running on Sept. 12 it was extended to

the end of Sept. and extended again to the end of Oct.

The tests are being conducted as drive through tests outside HCC's Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation, the testing will be done by the Fallon Ambulance in partnership with the Holyoke Board of Health and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The testing is available six days a week at different times to accommodate different schedules people may have.

Testing will be conducted on a first-come, first-served basis with no appointments, costs, or referrals needed. Testing hours include 7-11 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday,

See TESTING, page 9



The Bartley Center parking lot is the site of free COVID testing for the remainder of the month.

File photo



Someone at Kelly School last week tested positive for the coronavirus.

Submitted photo

Individual at Kelly School tests positive for COVID-19

HOLYOKE – Though Holyoke Public Schools are currently doing remote learning, there is limited faculty and staff at all schools for the purposes of various operations, including the food staff.

Last Thursday, Receiver/Superintendent Dr. Alberto Vazquez Matos revealed in a letter to families that a member of Kelly School had tested positive for COVID-19. The letter did not specify whether that individual was staff, administration, or even a student as there are some special education students attending school and students are picking up materials on a regular basis.

Matos wrote this letter to

families:

"We have been notified that an individual at Kelly School has been diagnosed with or is being tested for the novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. As such, we have notified individuals who may have been in close contact with the individual and, therefore, may have been exposed to the virus. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact (within 6 feet for periods of 10-15 minutes) with one another."

See KELLY, page 11

Big E Marketplace webpage launched

WEST SRINGFIELD – Eastern States Exposition has launched The Big E Marketplace – a webpage that helps connect its fairgoers to their favorite vendors where they can shop for the goods and services that make the Fair experience unique and exciting. The Marketplace launched last Friday, Sept. 18; what would have been Opening Day of the 2020 Big E and will operate until December 31, 2020.

“It brings me great pleasure to provide our fairgoers with a platform that will connect them to their favorite Big E products,” ESE President and CEO Gene Cassidy said. “It is our hope that The Big E Marketplace will provide our national, international and “mom-and-pop” vendors with the support that they need to return to the 2021 Big E September 17 – October 3.”

Fairgoers will access The Marketplace by visiting www.TheBigE.com and clicking on the icon that will open the “door” to their favorite vendors. Participating businesses are listed by location – Better Living Center, Craft Common, Outdoor Exhibitors, State Buildings, Young Building and Ireland’s Dingle Peninsula Showcase. Vendors who opted to be part of our Marketplace are included.

The Marketplace is this year’s home away from home for more than 120 of our Big E Vendors. As an example, customers who are hoping to find



In lieu of the Big E, which was cancelled, a Big E Marketplace has been launched. Submitted photo

their favorite steam mop, Western gear or soy candle can click on the Better Living Center. Those who are searching for the perfect gift for a friend or family member can access participating Crafters where they’ll find hand blown glass, homemade ornaments, mittens and more.

Take a virtual trip across the pond to Ireland through the Marketplace where you can visit all your favorite

companies that comprise The Big E’s Ireland Dingle Peninsula Showcase.

When a customer clicks on a desired location, it will bring them to the Exposition’s list showing all the participating vendors that are in that location as well as a link to their website, product description and social media pages. If a business does not have a website or social media page, contact information is provided.

Mural art walk on Saturday at noon

CHICOPEE – On Saturday, Sept. 26, at noon, the Chicopee Cultural Council will host its Art Walk & Mural Unveiling in Chicopee Center, as four new murals will be officially made public. The murals that will be unveiled will depict City Hall, the U.S.S. Indianapolis, Black Lives Matter and the fourth one that was scheduled to be painted by the community on Sept. 24. The Saturday event will be held in conjunction with Envision Our Chicopee: 2040, a process to develop a comprehensive plan that will guide the city through the next two decades. Local artists, speakers, and talent will be enjoyed during this family-friendly event. Face masks are required and social distancing guidelines will be followed.

Ukrainian dinner offered on Oct. 24

LUDLOW – Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, 45 Newbury St., will hold its fifth annual Ukrainian Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 4 to 6 p.m., with curbside pickup only. Enjoy pierogi, holubtsi (stuffed cabbage), kapusta, kielbasa and borscht. The cost is \$15. To reserve dinners please call or text 413-219-2126.



Evaluating Independent Living Retirement Options:

Key Factors to Consider in The Time of COVID-19

JOIN US at Day Brook Village Senior Living for a free presentation as Dr. Joan Roche discusses important considerations for your retirement during these unprecedented times.

The following in-person sessions will be HELD OUTSIDE IN OUR HEATED TENT*:

Tuesday, September 29th

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm (Lunch) OR 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm (Dinner)

Wednesday, September 30th

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm (Lunch) OR 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm (Dinner)

OR

By webinar: Thursday, October 1st

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm (RSVP for login information)

To reserve your space and select your preferred session, kindly visit www.RSVPSDayBrookVillage.org or call 413-538-7551 by September 25th.

Day Brook Village is a COVID-19 Free Community.

*As safety is our #1 priority, all in-person sessions will follow CDC and Massachusetts Department of Public Health guidelines, and the number of guests will be limited to allow for proper social distancing. All in-person attendees must wear a mask while on campus. Additional information pertaining to our practices to maintain a safe environment for all guests will be provided upon registration.

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We're Perfecting the Art of Superior Care.

SOCIAL, from page 1

This online program will highlight the story of Holyoke’s own Belle Skinner, a philanthropist who earned the French Legion of Honor and cemented her place as “godmother” to residents of a small village in France for her work rebuilding in the years following the end of World War One.

Join this exploration of the fascinating history behind a monumental fundraising effort that transformed a region. Uncover a legacy that stretches over three thousand miles from western Massachusetts to the town square intersection of Rue Belle Skinner and Place d’Holyoke in rural Meuse.

This virtual program is free and is open to all members of the public, but has been specially designed to address the needs of area seniors, many of whom continue to be socially isolated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is supported through a Community



Joe Maspo

Development Block Grant - COVID-19 Grant to address, prevent, and respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic that is administered through the Holyoke Office of Community Development and has been planned in consultation with the Holyoke Council on Aging.

To register for Holyoke’s Continental Connection or any future programs, please visit www.Wistariahurst.org or contact Eileen Maginnis at the Holyoke Council on Aging at maginnise@holyoke.org. If you have an idea for a topic you’d like to be considered for a future Wistariahurst session, please contact info@wistariahurst.org.

Future virtual programs will focus on a diverse range of historical and cultural topics including programs on nature, art, history, travel, and social justice. Upcoming presentations are set to include the natural history of the Pioneer Valley, the labor movement and women’s organizing in local factories, and the history of Holyoke’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

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A musical voyage through American history



The Agawam Cultural Council's popular Applause Series continues on Friday, October 16, 2020 with Rick Spencer and Dawn Indermuehle's American Pop Music Time Machine 1855-1965. The videotaped performance will be broadcast on the Town of Agawam's public access channel and streamed at 7:00 pm.

Submitted photo

AGAWAM – The Agawam Cultural Council's popular Applause Series will offer a bonus mid-month performance that was originally scheduled for this past Spring but cancelled due to the pandemic shutdown.

On Friday, Oct. 16 Rick Spencer and Dawn Indermuehle will bring their American Pop Music Time Machine 1855-1965 to the Applause Series. Their videotaped performance will be presented on the Town of Agawam's public access channel (Agawam TV15) at 7:00 pm and streamed from the "Watch" button on www.agawammedia.tv for those residing outside of Agawam. Those who wish to watch on a smart device at a different time should email r.kadis@comcast.net for a link for the performance. There is a three-hour window from 7:00 – 10:00 pm when the approximate one-hour program will be available. It is recommended that viewers begin watching no later than 8:45 pm.

The American Pop Music Time Machine is a musical voyage through our country's history, presenting popular songs from our past as the medium to connect to our shared cultural heri-

tage. Hear how America's popular songs evolved in the century after the 1855 incorporation of Agawam as an independent town.

Rick Spencer and Dawn Indermuehle develop and present theme-based music and history programs that present songs with cultural insight into times, places and events in American history. Their carefully crafted vocals and accompaniment are true to a song's era or style and illustrate the evolution of our nation's culture and history in an informative and entertaining way. Rick's resume includes 20 years as a staff musician, researcher and program developer at Mystic Seaport Museum. Dawn is responsible for researching and developing program material and creating period-appropriate vocal accompaniment.

Production sponsors for American Pop Music Time Machine - 1855-1965 are the Agawam Democratic Committee and Agawam City Councilor Rosemary Sandlin. The Agawam Cultural Council also thanks the Agawam Special Police, Elaine Carlson, Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi, and OMG, Inc. for their generous support as Applause Series season sponsors.

In lieu of the free will donations the Agawam Cultural Council (ACC) normally accepts at the conclusion of all its events, (which support fully 40% of the cost of each performance), the council asks viewers to consider making a properly "socially distanced" donation to support efforts to "Give Back to the Community" by visiting the ACC web site www.agawamcc.org and clicking on the green "Donate" button. A check in any amount, payable to the Agawam Cultural Council, may also be sent to: Agawam Cultural Council, Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam MA 01001.

For more information on the activities and virtual offerings of the Agawam Cultural Council during the stay-at-home order, please visit their web site, www.agawamcc.org. The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

Agawam forms new partnership with Valley Eye Radio

AGAWAM – Agawam Media Manager, Les Tingley, is pleased to announce a newly formed relationship with Valley Eye Radio - <http://valleyeyradio.org>. A non-profit, their mission is to help keep our Pioneer Valley neighbors informed and connected to their communities by being a 24/7 accessible source of the local news that otherwise isn't available to them due to vision loss or other disabilities. This is accomplished by volunteers who read the daily papers and the local weekly and monthly newspa-

pers from every community in the Pioneer Valley.

With encouragement from Mayor Sapelli, and network support from the town IT Department, the radio broadcasts are now running simultaneously with Community Bulletin Board Announcements on Agawam Comcast channel 12. The audio readings are a pleasant change from the previous music, stated Tingley, but most importantly It provides a valuable service to an underserved segment of our community.

Agawam Senior Center Director, Michael Squindo, is in full support of this collaboration. Michael shared, "this collaboration will serve our community long after COVID is written into our history." Prior to the impact of COVID19, the Senior Center, in collaboration with the MA Commission on the Blind, began hosting an educational support group for those living with visual impairments. Due to the closing of the center related to COVID this group has not met since March. Thanks to Agawam Media and Valley Eye Radio

this new relationship will allow all of our residents to receive news and updates about the area. "I am perhaps most excited that Les has been working with Valley Eye Radio and the COA to prepare audio recordings of our monthly newsletter, The Senior Scene, which will be included in part of this process" stated Squindo.

Agawam Media is a functional unit within the town IT Department that manages Cable Access Television, Streaming Media, as well as other forms of media communications.

Additional testing site offered

HOLYOKE – The city of Holyoke will be adding a second "Stop the Spread" free COVID testing site. The site will be located in the city parking lot across from the War Memorial Building and next to the McDonalds at 285 Maple Street. This testing site will be open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and is for walk-up testing only. Both the walk-thru and drive-thru sites have been extended to run until Sept. 30. Additional information is below:

- This test site is first come, first serve. There are no appointments. Please do not call the Health Department to make an appointment.
- There is no cost for the testing. You do not need a referral, nor do you need to be symptomatic.

- The test style will be the less invasive swab in the lower nostril. The older style that required further insertion of the swab will not be used.
- If you have previously tested positive, DPH and CDC guidelines do not recommend getting retested at this time.
- Turnaround time for results is typically 4 days or fewer.
- If you are acutely symptomatic, particularly if you have a high fever, consider scheduling a test with your Primary Care Physician.
- Dogs are prohibited at both the walk-up and drive-thru testing sites.
- Information on all of the Stop the Spread test sites across the State can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>.

Free COVID-19 testing extended at Holyoke Community College

HOLYOKE — Free COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended until Sept 30.

HCC has been serving as a "Stop the Spread" drive-through testing site since Aug. 26 to help the state and the City of Holyoke reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Tests are being conducted outside HCC's Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation and administered by EMTs and nurses from County Ambulance and Aveanna Healthcare in Springfield in partnership with the Holyoke Board of Health and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Testing is available six days a week

through September 30, 2020, during the following hours:

Monday 7-11 a.m., Tuesday 2-7 p.m., Wednesday. 7-11 a.m., Thursday 2-7 p.m., Friday 7-11 a.m., and Saturday 7-11 a.m.

Tests are conducted on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are no appointments, and there is no cost for the tests and no referral is required.

Please enter campus from Homestead Avenue and follow the signs to M Lot (adjacent the Bartley Center), where in-car tests are being administered.

Turnaround time for test results is typically four days or fewer.

Baystate and Community Benefits Advisory Councils Issue request for proposals

SPRINGFIELD – Baystate Health in partnership with its Community Benefits Advisory Councils is issuing a request for proposals for Better Together Grants.

The goal of Baystate Health's Community Benefits Program's 2020 Better Together Grants is to bring together health and community-based social service organizations across Baystate's four hospital service areas to address social determinants of health, improve health outcomes, and reduce health inequities. The aim is to develop approaches that, by targeting the social determinants of health, will improve people's overall well-being and make our communities healthier places to live, while complementing the health care system's current services.

Applicants can submit one proposal with the proposed project aligning with the hospital's priority Social Determinant of Health:

- Baystate Franklin Medical Center: Social Environment
- Baystate Medical Center: Education
- Baystate Noble Hospital: Built environment
- Baystate Wing Hospital: Social environment

For more detailed definitions and examples of interventions for each of the above health priorities, applicants can review the Massachusetts Department of Health Determination of Need Health Priority Guidelines at

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/health-priority-0/download>

Applicants are asked to carefully review the RFP grant guidelines prior to submitting their Letter of Intent, which is due Friday, Oct. 23, at 11:59 p.m.

A virtual general information session will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 7, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. All interested organizations and applicants are encouraged to register for the information session.

For those who cannot attend, the session is being recorded and will be available for access at baystatehealth.org/applyforfunding.

All applicants who submit a Letter of Intent in October will be invited to a second information session on Nov. 10 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. in preparation for their submission of the full application in December.

Final applications are due Friday, Dec. 4 at 11:59 p.m. with award decisions to be made in late January 2021.

Funding for the 2020 Better Together Grants RFP is made possible through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Determination of Need Community Health Initiative (CHI) requirements related to the replacement of Baystate Medical Center's Electrophysiology Catheterization Labs approved in November 2018.

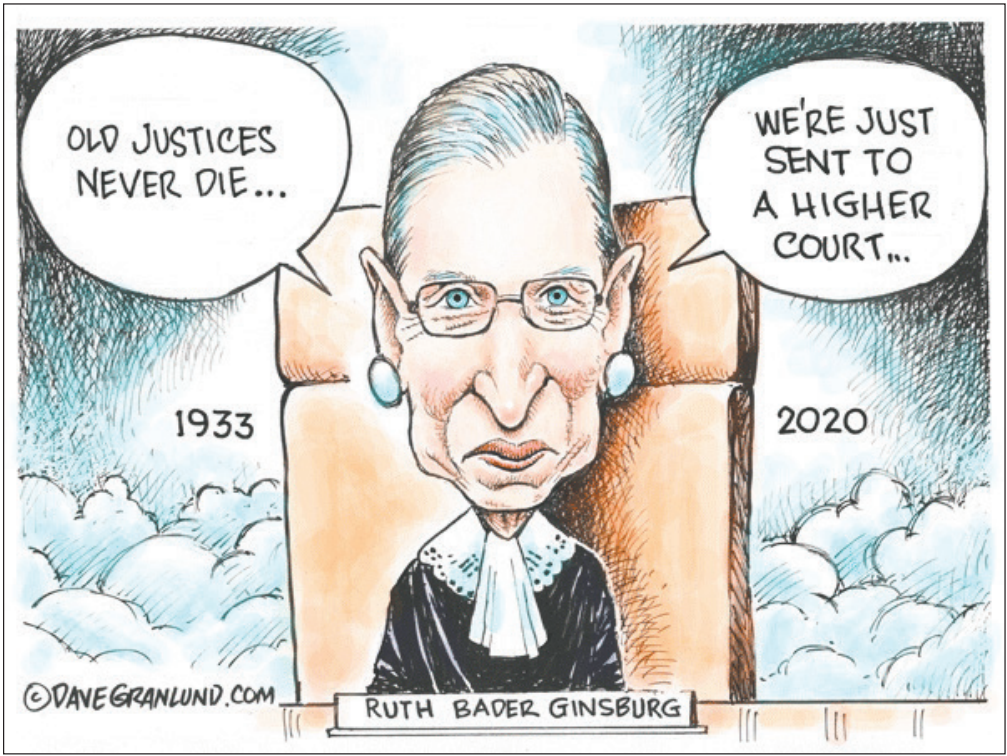
For more information, contact Brittney Rosario at 413-794-1801, or email governmentcommunity@baystatehealth.org.

Poetry Corner

Window

By Thomas J. Kennedy

You let me look through your hand
window glass —
to see the world as it passes on.
The winter songbirds and
snow laden hanging pines,
reminding me to read between the lines;
Your lifelong picture is ongoing,
and I search the stills
While you let the light in,
as you let me look through your hand



Guest Column

Celebrating the birthday of a local legend, Johnny Appleseed

I have numerous old files from my days at Old Sturbridge Village. Occasionally I'll take a peek at some of the things I've saved. This time I was looking for a few tidbits on heirloom apple varieties, perhaps something that would work its way into a good column. It is the peak of apple season, you know. Instead I found a love story, and while this character isn't known for romance, per se, it sure makes for a good starting paragraph.

We all have heard of Johnny Appleseed. I'm not sure if we learned about him in school or if he is one of those legends that mysteriously becomes etched in our brains. In my mind's eye he is a ragamuffin of sorts, skipping to and fro across the country scattering apple seeds. I imagine how, in no time at all, the apple trees grew to be in full bloom along the cart paths, welcoming settlers as they made their way west. End of story. But who was Johnny Appleseed, and what sent him on a lifelong mission to blanket the Midwest in apple blossoms?

The man we call Johnny Appleseed was born here in Massachusetts in the town of Leominster on Sept. 26, 1774. He is the only person awarded 'folk hero' status here in our state. His given name was John Chapman. It is likely that John and his older sister, Elizabeth, grew up in the care of relatives after his mother's death from tuberculosis in 1776. His father



was a Minuteman who fought at Concord and later a Revolutionary soldier in the Continental Army. Some accounts have John heading West as early as the age of 18, other stories claim him to be about 26 years old.

Johnny was a practical nurseryman, more skilled and calculated than my interpretation of him. He was also a good businessman and had a strong Christian faith. Together, these attributes wove

John Chapman into a folk hero we know and love. With apple seeds from the cider mills in Pennsylvania in hand, Johnny cleared the woods to set up apple tree nurseries throughout the Midwest. A smart move, considering the law made new settlers plant 50 apple trees on their property during the first year of homesteading. He took payment for the trees he sold in whatever form was available (or not), whether it be in currency, old clothes or even food.

Johnny lived in harmony with nature without ever having a permanent place to call home. In his travels he befriended Native Americans, white settlers and animals, all the while preaching and living his religion peacefully. Reportedly, he knew many Native American languages well enough to converse, and had compassion for both his own and Native American cultures. Some stories make him out to be an herbal healer, as well as a greet-

er of new settlers with a variety of medicinal plants in hand. Fennel even became known as 'Johnny weed.' It becomes more apparent with each additional piece of research I find that Johnny's lifework was to be of service to others; at the same time he planted apple trees. Johnny Appleseed died at age 70 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. A monument marks his gravesite.

So what about the love story? From all accounts Johnny Appleseed traveled alone. A yellowed newspaper article stashed away in my file may give hope that Johnny's journey didn't start out that way. The story goes that John Chapman was to be married to Sarah Crawford. Instead, the day set aside for their wedding became the day of her funeral. She was buried in her wedding gown. A bouquet of apple blossoms was to have been her bouquet. Johnny, overcome with grief, decided to go forth and make a monument for his beloved; he would blanket the land in her favorite flower. Fact or fiction, I can't be sure. Perhaps it is another writer's attempt to put a fairy tale beginning on a legendary life. The romantic in me hopes it to be true!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

Guest Column

Can I help my friend with his Social Security?

By Russell Gloor

Dear Rusty: I am trying to help a good friend of mine who lives in Indiana and is 80-years-old. I am very concerned as he's not now collecting Social Security for some reason, and I have no idea why. Is there any reason that you know of that would keep him from getting his benefits? Is there maybe something he might have done to keep him from getting his money? He worked his whole life, is a retired electrician and was a long-time member of the Electricians' Union. I'm not sure if he knows how to apply for his benefits, but he's having a hard time making ends meet and could definitely use the extra money. He told me that an organization has offered to help him, but it will cost \$7,500 and there is no guarantee they can get it for him. He can't afford to pay that kind of money only to be told there is nothing they can do for him. I'm hoping you can give me some insight. Signed: Faithful Friend

Dear Faithful Friend: If your friend has, as you say, worked and contributed to Social Security via FICA payroll taxes all his life, then he should be eligible to collect Social Security benefits. It only takes 40 quarters of credit (about 10 years of earnings) to be eligi-

ble for SS, so he should certainly be eligible if he paid SS FICA taxes for enough years.

Are there reasons why he might not be collecting? Sure, but they're not common, and here are a few:

- Indiana is one of 26 states where some state employees don't participate in the federal Social Security program. If your friend was a state employee for his whole life he may not have contributed to Social Security, so he may not have the requisite 40 credits needed to collect Social Security.

- Social Security benefits are generally exempt from garnishing, except for certain types of situations. Any U.S. government agency (such as the IRS if he owes back taxes) can garnish his benefits if he owes them money. His benefits can also be garnished for unpaid alimony or child support. But usually such garnishment means only reducing his Social Security benefit, not completely eliminating it.

- If he were collecting Social Security at one time, but Social Security later found that he had been overpaid for any reason, they could withhold his benefits until they recovered the overpayment. Sometimes, the actions of someone else (e.g., a former spouse) can cause him to be liable for an overpayment, but Social Security would have sent him a letter inform-

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

ing him of the overpayment and giving him an opportunity to appeal it. In any case, Social Security would only withhold benefits until the overpayment was fully recovered.

- Social Security benefits are not automatically awarded. If your friend simply neglected to apply for benefits when he was eligible, Social Security wouldn't sign him up automatically, regardless of his age. He will simply not get benefits unless he applies for them.

Your friend shouldn't pay anyone to find out if he's eligible for Social Security benefits. The answer is simply a phone call away by contacting the Social Security Administration, either at the national number, 1.800.772.1213, or by contacting his local Social Security office (the local contact information is at www.ssa.gov/locator). Generally, this type of transaction can be accomplished over the phone. He should call Social Security and tell them he wishes to apply for "Social Security Retirement Benefits." Once they have his Social Security number they can tell immediately if he is eligible for benefits and, if he is, he should ask for six months retroactive benefits (SS will pay up

See SECURITY, page 5

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A Quote

OF NOTE

"Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to The Sun, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

HEN, from page 1

munity gardens, ensuring that it facilitates easy access and the use of these sites.

The ordinance committee and planning board agreed on having both backyard chickens and community gardens available to residents during this time where people are worried about when and how they'll get food. The committee spoke with Gonsalves regarding the keeping of chickens, where his concerns included strictly enforcing guidelines and consequences if the guideline are not followed. Gonsalves had concerns of not being able to enforce certain regulation due to the sheer size of the town, additionally he was concerned about the additional work that would be added to the animal control officer.

In keeping hens and roosters the ordinance draft explains that a coop is a cage or small enclosure for chickens and a run is an enclosed area that can be attached to a coop for hens to roam freely. There were concerns among multiple members of both the ordinance committee and the planning board about runs. As some people with chickens allow their chickens to roam freely while not in an enclosure, meaning they sometimes roam into the streets and in these situations animal control is called to wrangle in chickens. The members want to strictly enforce runs as they are important in the safety of chickens.

Families that live in duplex's, apartment complexes, or have shared yards can apply for the hen permit but much have an established run to not disrupt neighbors. A resident suggested having people who are experienced in handling chickens, train or help in wrangling chickens to lessen the cases that the animal control officers have to assist in.

Ordinance Committee chair Rebecca Lisi explained there is a volunteer group of residents with that experience that offers help to locals.

In the hen ordinance draft the current section 14-12 stated that, "an animal control officer may seize and impound any animals kept in violation of this section or Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, as defined by this chapter." This section was amended to, "No person shall keep any livestock animals on their property except as otherwise allowed by Holyoke Zoning Ordinance or state law. If a violation of the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance is determined by the building commissioner in accordance with section 9.0 of Administration, Enforcement, and Procedures of the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance, an animal control officer may seize and impound the animals." Meaning that more people are involved before an animal is seized.

No chickens shall be kept within the city unless a permit is issued by the Board of Health, and permits can be applied for at the Board of Health including a permit fee of \$20.00 to cover inspection and administration costs. The draft added that any applicant for a hen keeping permit will be required to notify any and all abutters by regular and verified mail by no later than 30 days prior to applying. The verification of mailing will be required to accompany the application.

The draft includes specifications for coops and runs to ensure the safety of the chickens and those handling them. Specifications include the hens cannot be kept within a living area of a residential structure, and hens need to be confined to a property and not allowed to wander onto other properties; including city-owned land. Other specifications include keeping eggs at 45 degrees if someone is planning on selling the eggs, though for people keeping the eggs they can be in room temperature if unwashed. Heaters will be prohibited in coops and soil testing and treatment within Board of Health regulations will be required.

The committee included an application process in which people will need

to complete and submit the permit application form, required documents, and a check or money order for non-refundable fees. Applicants are to provide the Board of Health a letter requesting the hen permit, that includes a description and plan of the proposed henhouse and run location on the property. Also a description of the type of property where the hens will be kept. The Health Department will review applications and conduct site walks, and a decision will be made based on all requirements that have been set forth in city regulations and ordinances.

The annual permit will expire on June 30 of each year and a renewal or permits must be obtained. Permit holders that fail to renew their permits prior to June 30 are subject to a \$25.00 late fee. Annual inspections will be conducted by the board of Health, and failure to meet requirements and regulations can resulting fines up to \$100.00 and a hearing with the board of Health to determine if the permit should be revoked, suspended, or subject to further conditions.

Though there was no vote taken the ordinance committee and planning board agreed to the langue presented with minor changes. This item will be brought up at the next City Council meeting on Oct. 8.



SECURITY, from page 4

to 6 months retroactively).

If your friend cannot, for any reason, contact Social Security himself to discuss his situation, he can appoint someone, such as you, to represent him in these matters. Here is a link to Social Security's rules on having someone represent him: www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10075.pdf. You are, indeed, a good and faithful friend.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not

represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit AMAC's website amac-foundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email ssadviser@amac-foundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



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2020census.gov United States Census Bureau

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66					67					68			

- CLUES ACROSS**

 - 1. Emaciation
 - 6. Million barrels per day (abbr.)
 - 9. Light dry-gap bridge system (abbr.)
 - 13. Anatomical term
 - 14. Tropical starchy tuberous root
 - 15. Jewish calendar month
 - 16. Round Dutch cheese
 - 17. Western Pacific republic
 - 18. List of foods
 - 19. It can strike the ground
 - 21. Drenches
 - 22. Some are cole
 - 23. ___ Squad
 - 24. Expresses emotion
 - 25. One point east of due south
 - 28. Satisfaction
 - 29. Holds nothing back
 - 31. Top of the body
 - 33. Not well-liked
- CLUES DOWN**

 - 1. Not us
 - 2. Helper
 - 3. Bleat
 - 4. Type of chair
 - 5. Jr.'s father
 - 6. Necessary for certain beverages
 - 7. Hillside
 - 8. Dutch painter Gerrit ___
 - 9. Gave a new look
 - 10. Ancient Greek City
 - 11. Confidence trick
 - 12. Type of fund
 - 14. From an Asian island
 - 17. Malay boat
 - 20. Western Australia indigenous people
 - 21. Cluster on underside of fern frond
 - 23. You need it to get somewhere
 - 25. The woman
- 26. It may be green
 - 27. Makes less severe
 - 29. One from Beantown
 - 30. Cavalry sword
 - 32. Metric linear unit
 - 34. Hawaiian dish
 - 35. Yokel
 - 37. Dissuade
 - 40. Mutual savings bank
 - 42. ___ Caesar, comedian
 - 43. Primordial matters
 - 47. We all have it
 - 49. Hermann ___, author of "Siddhartha"
 - 50. Historic MA coastal city
 - 52. Shady garden alcove
 - 53. Small amount
 - 55. Horse-drawn cart
 - 56. Nocturnal rodent
 - 57. Spiritual leader
 - 58. Air mattress
 - 59. Speaks incessantly
 - 61. Auction term
 - 65. Atomic #62

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9

In The News

HISPANIC, from page 1

Beginning Friday, Sept. 25, four members of the HCC community will share favorite recipes highlighting their ethnic heritage, followed by question and answer sessions with the chefs. Raúl Gutiérrez, associate professor of Spanish and coordinator of HCC's Latinx Studies program, will kick off the cooking series on Sept. 25 at 11 a.m.. He will be followed by Harold Santiago, special program coordinator in HCC's Admissions office on Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 11 a.m.; HCC student Liuginsa Rosa on Monday, Oct. 5 at 1:30 p.m.; and HCC math instructor Aida Medianero on Tuesday, Oct. 13, at 11 a.m.

“Each of the four cooks represents

a different nationality,” said Derek Estrella, an HCC Financial Aid counselor and secretary for the college’s Hispanic Leadership Committee, which organized the Heritage Month events. “Raúl is Mexican, Harold is Puerto Rican, Liuginsa is Dominican and Aida Peruvian. I’m also asking them to share a signature song they grew up with while cooking.”

Also on Tuesday, Sept. 29, from 6 to 8 p.m., the public is invited to share their ideas for “El Corazón de Holyoke: Comenzamos!” (The Heart of Holyoke: Let’s Begin), kicking off a new phase of public art installations that celebrate Latinx and Puerto Rican artists and culture in the city.

On Wednesday, Sept 30, from 11 a.m. to noon, Holyoke resident and HCC

alumna Maria Cartagena, Five College community partnerships coordinator, will present “History of Holyoke - Political Landscape,” focusing on the ethnic, cultural and political influence of Hispanics in the city.

The “El Corazón de Holyoke” conversation continues on Thursday, Oct 15, from 6-8 p.m. with “Cultural Place-keeping and the ‘salsa’ of Public Art,” a presentation and Q&A with cultural districts program manager Luis Cotto from the Mass Cultural Council; Springfield Poet Laureate Magdalena Gómez; and interdisciplinary artist Shey Rivera Rios.

HCC's Hispanic Leadership Committee, a newly formed group of HCC staff and faculty involved in campus and community engagement activities, will hold an online session on

Wednesday, Oct. 14, from 2 to 3 p.m.
introducing themselves to the college and
wider Holyoke community.

The college's Hispanic Heritage Month's activities will conclude with "Anti-blackness in the Hispanic Community" on Wednesday, Oct. 28, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., a student panel discussion examining racial bias as well as the shared heritage of Black and Latinx people. The panel will consist of members from two HCC student clubs, the Black Student Alliance and the Latinx Empowerment Association, and moderated by Rockell Bartoli, a Miami-based author and student-success coach.

All events will be held on Zoom. They are free and open to the public but pre-registration is required. To register, please visit hcc.edu/hhm.

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USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS.....	\$1.57 lb	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF	\$3.09 lb	7 LB BAG
SLICED IN OUR DELI				
USDA INSP. TURKEY BREAST	\$3.99 lb			
TAIL GATE SPECIALS				
USDA INSP STORE MADE ITALIAN SAUSAGE.....	\$2.44 lb			
USDA INSP STORE MADE KOREAN BBQ MARINATED BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS	\$2.29 lb			
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Away fans not allowed at high school games

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – High school athletes returned to the field for tryouts last Friday. The tryouts will continue into this week with games set to begin at the end of next week.

Nearly all of the schools in Western Massachusetts, specifically in and around the Pioneer Valley will be full participants in the Fall 1 season, which will feature all of the fall sports with the exception of football, cheerleading, and unified basketball.

There are some schools that have opted to defer moderate risk sports like girls volleyball and

soccer to the Fall 2 season in late February.

While student-athletes will have the opportunity to be playing games after a six-month layoff from most activity, fans will only be allowed to have limited participation.

David Stratton, a member of the board of directors for the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference, said the PVIAC has issued guidance and agreed that all schools in the membership will only allow for home fans at games to begin with.

Stratton said it will be up to the individual schools to govern how the crowds will be con-

trolled, but all schools are only allowed to host fans for their own team.

Those crowds will be limited to just 50 people, per the current outdoor guidelines set by Gov. Charlie Baker.

In many cases, players on individual teams will be given a limited number of passes, likely ranging from 1 to 3 per person, and that player will be allowed to give those passes to family or friends to attend the game. Fans who attend the games must socially distance, stay away from the participants, and wear face coverings in order to watch the games. There also could be restricted areas for seating at

game sites.

Those fans will not be permitted to travel to away games and will be turned away by other schools.

There are a few schools, either due to staffing, field configuration, or other factors, that are not allowing any fans at all to games. Ware confirmed last Thursday there will be no fans allowed at games to start the fall season. The Ware Athletic Department is hopefully to develop a plan as the season progresses so some fans can be welcomed back to fields.

The rules will be in place for at least the fall season, and Stratton said unless a specific

school makes a more stringent restriction, a limited number of fans will be allowed indoors to watch volleyball games as well.

Stratton said participants in the contests, such as players, coaches, and officials, do not count toward the 50 restriction for gatherings.

The MIAA has set an Oct. 1 date for the start of games. There will be approximately 10 to 12 contests for soccer, field hockey, and girls volleyball, allowing parents approximately 5 to 6 chances to see games this season.

Parents and athletes should check with their specific high school's athletic department for details on that school's fan rules.

Robie clinches modified title, other crowns up for grabs

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Trevor Bleau (Troy, NH) won the race Saturday night at Monadnock Speedway that had eluded him all season. But, while Bleau won the battle, Brian Robie won the war.

With Robie's strong third-place outing in Saturday's NHSTRA Modified main event, the Sunapee star clinched the 2020 track title. The speedway's other four divisional crowns, however, will all wait to be decided on the final day of the season.

Bleau, the runner-up a week earlier, was one of three first-of-the-season feature winners Saturday. On the fourteenth event of the summer, Emerson

Cayer (Contoocook, NH) and C.J. Johnson (Keene, NH) also earned their first victory laps of the year.

While Cayer made easy work of scoring Saturday's 50-lap NHSTRA Battle for The Belt Mini Stock feature, Gordon

Farnum – a six-time 2020 feature winner – cruised quietly to a fifth-place finish and, with it, the championship of the multi-

track Belt series.

Cameron Houle and

See RACING, page 8



Belchertown's Chris Buffone captured the street stock event.

Submitted photo



Trevor Bleau was a winner in the modified race, his first win of the season.

REGIONAL SPORTS RETURN



Youth soccer in the Roots Athletic League got underway with action starting Saturday, Sept. 19. Teams from Granby, Southwick, Agawam, Belchertown, South Hadley, and Wilbraham were all in action through the Pioneer Valley. With all sports restarting with limited action, Turley Publications welcomes any and all information about whatever sports your youth are participating in. Please submit photos and games results or other information to sports@turley.com.

Photos by
Gregory A. Scibelli

Help feature your student-athletes in our sports section

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The fall season is starting and Turley Publications is looking forward to getting back out on the field to bring you the high school action for all your favorite teams.

We know this fall season is important to many senior athletes, who watched Class of 2020 lose their entire spring season.

We're asking for help on this upcoming season in order to bring the best coverage we can possibly manage and fill our pages with names and color.

We know that fans will be limited to the home crowds, but that is where you all come in.

We have a limited number of staff to start the school year due to the pandemic, and while we strive to get to as many games as possible, we

cannot get to everywhere.

If you are a parent, coach, or even player, and you have information or photographs to share, we definitely want to hear from you.

If you don't see one of our photographers at a game, please feel free to send your own action photos of games in order to bolster our coverage. If you are interested in regularly submitted photos, please do contact us.

Otherwise, we would love to hear from anyone who reports scores, details, and any milestones that occur during this unprecedented season. Please be sure the information you provide us is accurate and check with coaches, if necessary, before submitting.

We also encourage all coaches to submit their results and details as much as possible. Send any and all information and photos for inclusion to sports@turley.com.

New England Mutiny’s Howarth signs with Pride

LUDLOW, MA - UWS Player of the Year, Kate Howarth, has signed a professional contract with the Orlando Pride of the National Women’s Soccer League (NWSL). With the recent departure of US National Team star Alex Morgan to Tottenham Hotspur and Taylor Kornieck on loan to German club MSV Duisburg, Howarth is among a forwards group that includes Brazilian legend Marta and former USWNT member Sydney Leroux.

Howarth, who played collegiately for the University of Miami (2009-2012) is the all-time leading scorer for the New England Mutiny of United Women’s Soccer (UWS). This will be the second go-around in NWSL for Howarth after having been discovered off the New England Mutiny roster in 2012 by the Boston Breakers. Howarth returned to the Mutiny in 2014 where she would be a fixture at the forward position for the next six years for the western Mass-based club. She tallied a club record 69 goals for the Mutiny. Along with her 17 career assists, Howarth also tops the list at 155 points scored for the New

England franchise that was established in 1999.

“I can confidently say that I would not be where I am today if I had not been asked to play for the New England Mutiny. I would not have been given a chance with the Boston Breakers and would not have been able to develop as a player to get to this point. Joe (Ferrara, Mutiny team owner) has created a competitive environment that has drawn high level players across New England year after year,” stated Howarth.

At age 29, a professional career for Howarth in the NWSL seemed a longshot, but the Mutiny captain amassed a stellar campaign last season for the Mutiny that could not be overlooked by NWSL scouts as she was invited to pre-season camp by five NWSL teams before settling in Orlando. Howarth finished the season with 20 goals scored and 4 assists.

“What made Kate’s season extraordinary was that she scored in every regular season game and both



Kate Howarth

playoff games. Whatever metrics an organization uses to evaluate a player they can toss those out the window when someone can produce like that against high quality competition. Kudos to Orlando for signing Kate as they will find her passion and work ethic contagious. Her impact on the Mutiny organization and to me personally is indescribable” added Ferrara.

Howarth was selected to the UWS Team of the Week on five occasions in 2019 and currently stands as the only player in UWS to top 100 points scored.

“UWS gave me a place to develop, learn, and become the player I am today. The league gave me the opportunity to play with so many high-level players throughout the years, all of which taught me things that I have taken with me. Above anything, I think it gave me the chance to learn how to be a leader and instilled the confidence I needed to walk out with my new teammates today,” added Howarth.

RACING, from page 7

Bleau raced under a blanket for the first ten laps of the Modified go-round, with Bleau then using the low groove to take command and never look back. Ben Byrne, needing desperately to make up big ground on Robie, got up for second on lap 25 but had nothing more for Bleau.

Robie, charging from row five, swiped third from Houle on the final corner of the 40-lapper; more than enough to clinch the 2020 Modified crown. He is currently fourth nationally in NASCAR Division 1 points.

Eleven-time LMS winner Aaron Fellows left Saturday’s feature on the hook before a lap had been completed, the victim of someone else’s blunder. That gave Robert Hagar (Windsor, VT) a chance to close the championship points battle entering the season finale, and Hagar took full advantage of the opening.

Hagar stormed past Justin Littlewood on lap two and roared off to his second win of the summer. Teen star Camdyn Curtis equaled his season’s best in the runner-up slot, and Littlewood came home third.

In the Mini Stock 50-lapper, Cayer took the lead from Nathan Wenzel on lap 12 and quickly social-distanced himself from the pack to score his first Monadnock win of the summer. Louie Maher, the 2019 track titlist, was second, but had nothing for Cayer. Wenzel, strong in third, went home 20 points behind Farnum.

Jeff Asselin, seventh on the night, stayed out of trouble to leapfrog Jake Puchalski for top 2020 Mini

Stock rookie honors, taking a two-point advantage in that competition into next Saturday’s season finale. Gordon Farnum (Fitzwilliam, NH) won the 2020 Mini Stock Battle for the Belt Championship.

The hard-charging Curtis twins, Jaret and Chase, came into Saturday’s Street Stock feature tied atop the points parade. Number three man Chris Buffone (Belchertown, Ma) needed a statement run to keep his championship hopes alive, and he accomplished exactly that.

Rocketing into the lead on lap two, Buffone sailed to his third win of the summer, getting the job done with his uncle, Tommy O’Sullivan, glued to his bumper. Last season’s top gun, Dave Greenslit, was strong in third and, at the end of the night, Chase Curtis went home two points ahead of brother Jaret, with Buffone still in the hunt, 28 back.

Firing from row three, C.J. Johnson took control of the Pure Stock feature on lap three and then checked out on the field to score his first win of the summer. Chris Davis, needing to make big inroads on points leader Mike Douglas, took second on lap five but, with Douglas quickly pulling up to his bumper, could make only a minimal gain.

Douglas enters next Saturday’s Championship Night event 36 points ahead of Davis, who, still mathematically alive in the title hunt, is the only 2019 champion capable of repeating that success.

Monadnock Speedway will conclude its pandemic-abbreviated 2020 racing season when it hosts its annual Championship Night races – with four divisional crowns still undecided, and many extras scheduled -

next Saturday, September 26. Post time for that event is 2 p.m.

MONADNOCK SPEEDWAY SEPTEMBER 19 RESULTS:

Pure Stocks - CJ Johnson, Chris Davis, Mike Douglas, Dylan Adams, Jimmy Zellman, Cory Lofland, JD Stockwell, Nick Houle, Jake Bosse, Jason Leray, Tucker Houle, Ryan Lawliss, Matt Lambert, Trevor Carey, Brandon Lavoie

Late Model Sportsman - Robert Hagar, Camdyn Curtis, Justin Littlewood, John Meany, James Beck, Nancy Muni-Ruot, Chris Balls, Cole Littlewood, Dan Comeau, Ronald Laperche, Aaron Fellows, Tyler Lescord (DNS)

Mini Stocks - Emerson Cayer, Louie Maher, Nathan Wenzel, Kevin Cormier, Gordon Farnum, Pat Houle, Jeff Asselin, Tim Leblanc, Bill Chaffee, Jake Puchalski, Kevin McKnight, Ray King, Dan Sweeney, Kevin Clayton, Matt Sonnhalter, David Thibodeau (DNS)

Mini Stock Battle for the Belt Champion - Gordon Farnum

Street Stocks - Chris Buffone, Tommy O’Sullivan, Dave Greenslit, Mike Radzuik, Chase Curtis, Jaret Curtis, Hillary Renaud, Ed Brehio III, Robbie Streeter, Tim Wenzel, Bryan Granger, Paul Barnard (DNS)

NHSTRA Modifieds - Trevor Bleau, Ben Byrne, Brian Robie, Cameron Houle, Brian Chapin, Russ Hersey, Todd Patnode, Matt Kimball, Kim Rivet, Scott MacMichael, Solomon Brow, Andy Major, Eric Leclair, Kevin Pittsinger, Jason Houle, Brad Zahensky, Cory Plummer



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ADVANCING YOUR HEALTH

MIAA announces partnership with ‘kindness partner’

FRANKLIN – The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) is proud to announce a partnership with Choose To Be Nice (CTBN) as the Official Kindness Partner of the MIAA. This first-of-its kind partnership amplifies the message that sports and kindness are intricately connected, both on and off the field.

“Choose To Be Nice’s message of kindness lines up perfectly with the MIAA’s values,” said Bill Gaine, Executive Director of MIAA. “Spreading kindness is a choice all of our stakeholders – student athletes, coaches, school administrators and more – can agree on. We are excited about helping to bring the message of kindness to the MIAA community.”

Choose To Be Nice offers a wide array of tools and programs to help schools, companies and organizations build and sustain a lasting culture of kindness. The MIAA/CTBN partnership will put the issue of kindness front and center on and off the playing field and come to life through a number of creative initiatives.

“We’re over the moon to be working with MIAA to help bring a very simple, but powerful message of choice and kindness to the entire MIAA community of student athletes, coaches, administrators and families” said Dina Creiger, Founder of Choose To Be Nice.

About Choose To Be Nice: Headquartered in Needham, MA, Choose To Be Nice is a social enterprise dedicated to building communities where kindness, empathy, inclusion, and appreciation for others prevail and where people thrive through meaningful connections with others at home, in school, at work and in our communities. They offer social and emotional learning (SEL) programs for schools, companies and organizations and apparel and merchandise all sporting the Choose To Be Nice message. For more information, please visit www.choosetobenice.com.

COALITION, from page 1

The nearly two-hour discussion included representatives from the Department of Veterans’ Services, the Executive Office of Administration and Finance and the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance. The Coalition’s presentation cited research and background to assist the state’s needs assessment in planning for the construction of a Veteran-centric campus in Holyoke.

The Coalition noted the demand for long-term care in the Veteran community, to include a significant wait list that historically has been 300-plus Veterans seeking long-term care in Massachusetts. The Coalition also presented information on the need for greater behavioral health services for Veterans; the expected increase in senior citizens diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease or other forms of dementia; the increase in the number of women Veterans; the rising demand for palliative and hospice care; the greater reliance on family caregivers for Veterans for Activities of Daily Living; and the cost effectiveness and benefits of Adult Day Health Care.

The Coalition issued this statement followed by a list of its recommendations:

“The Coalition was pleased to have an opportunity to share its recommendations on areas the Coalition believes the state must not overlook when designing a new home.

“The Coalition was impressed with the Payette team’s sincere interest in receiving feedback and hearing about our ideas for a future Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke that, we hope, will set the standard for all long-term care facilities for state veteran homes in our nation. We genuinely believe this is our state’s opportunity to create a new campus for Veterans that will prevent any future outbreak of infectious disease and will be the model for care.

“We emphasize to the design team that the new Soldiers’ Home will need to serve Veterans for 70 to 100 years or more. This is our chance to get it right for future generations of Veterans.

“We look forward to continued dialogue with Payette during its engagement work and in doing everything we can to assist in the development of the state’s implementation plan to meet the April 15, 2021 federal Veterans’ Affairs’ State Home Construction Grant application deadline.”

- Coalition met over the summer and developed the following recommendations, which were presented to the Payette design team:
1. Build a new Soldiers’ Home with a state-of-the-art design that accommodates a 120-room addition plus the maximum number of additional long-term care rooms in the Soldiers’ Home current main building. All rooms must be for single occupancy and include private shower & toilet and in accordance with small house design principles. The design should ensure there are provisions for current and future long-term care needs to include a secure behavioral health unit, a secure dementia special care unit, and end of life care.
 2. Create an enabling outdoor environment on the Holyoke campus that meets legal requirements for a dementia special care unit, allows for a vibrant Adult Day Health Care program and the needs of all Veteran residents in having daily access to the outdoors.
 3. Create an Adult Day Health Care area that is economically self-sustaining and that allows Veterans to age in place with a program that provides medical, nursing and personal care services with outcomes that in many cases would delay nursing home placement and reduce hospital admissions.
 4. Create a Family Contact Area with virtual technologies during times when quarantining or social distancing protocols prevent direct family visitation.
 5. Ensure optimal clinical space requirements for essential on-site specialty care necessary for long-term care in such areas as podiatry, urology, cardiology, respiratory therapy, dentistry, optometry/ophthalmology and physical therapy.
 6. Accommodate service animals & pet therapy as more Veterans require the use of service animals and pet therapy for their health care.
 7. Renovate and modernize the Soldiers’ Home “canteen” recreation center with movie screen, space for community events.
 8. Sustain the current Green House and Recreation Room areas with sufficient space to meet the increasing demand for non-traditional and whole health therapies such as yoga and meditation.
 9. Build in sensory stimulation best practices to include space for a Snoezelen Room. Such a room in long-term care facilities help reduce agitation and anxiety in supporting people with Alzheimer’s and dementia. The room would have music, aromatherapy, lighting and textures to help stimulate the senses,

- encourage interaction and aid in communication with Veteran users.
10. Create a gaming center with both traditional recreation like billiards, card and puzzle tables as well as virtual technologies that appeal to Veterans who enjoy gaming devices.
 11. Create areas for quiet reflection that use soft music and lighting and other design principles that assist Veteran residents with dementia who are experiencing symptoms of sundowning.
 12. Redesign the current outdoor courtyard at the Soldiers’ Home for a much-improved environment for common area use throughout the year to include a rubberized surface conducive for senior citizens. The courtyard should include shade and landscaping for a stimulating and comfortable space.
 13. Retain the Soldiers’ Home Canteen with a snack bar for in-between meals and to support family gatherings and large community events that are so popular for Veteran residents.
 14. Create a gift shop for purchases throughout the day for incidentals, cards, sundries, and apparel.
 15. Keep a Multi-Denominational Chapel for the spiritual needs of Veterans and their family members.
 16. Upgrade the Home’s elevator system for improved wayfinding and in keeping with the best nursing home industry practices for safety.

In addition to these 16 recommendations, the Coalition also suggested two considerations for Payette to include as part of their needs assessment for a reimaged new Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke campus.

First, to assess the demand for outpatient primary care at the Soldiers’ Home and whether or not there is an opportunity to reimagine a new model for best using the current space to include a family visitation center and incorporating much-needed adult day health care.

Second, to assess the need for the domiciliary program at the Soldiers’ Home and whether the current building housing the program could serve more Veterans by repurposing the space for a Veteran Assistance Center available for all Veterans and their family members in the community. Such a center could assist Veterans with access to Veteran benefits and services and could include a robust meeting space for Veterans seeking support and assistance through various community support groups such as the Alzheimer’s Association, the Springfield Vet Center, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, among others.

PROGRAM, from page 1

ment activities, while the weather permits it of course.

The goals of the club this season include providing access to virtual classrooms and having proper food and nutrition during the day. The club tries to combat food insecurity for at-risk youth in Holyoke by providing targeted dinner deliveries to children living in homeless shelters, youth with special needs, and parents of children who are elderly or disabled. The club is in partnership with the Holyoke Housing Authority and other community partners, the club serves food at four sites within Holyoke and have served over 150,000 meals from April to August.

“We still offer food to the community at the same locations, but have grown the program to include other shelters across the city as well.” Bresnahan said. “We see this as a long-term project and as long as the community needs the assistance, we will be there to help.” Bresnahan explained that there is no intended end date for this service as many families in Holyoke, the surrounding areas, state, and country are in need of food services such as the ones the club provides. “We plan on keeping the program going in Holyoke until we no longer need to.” Bresnahan said.

For further questions on the club’s fall programs people can go online at hbhc.org or contact the Boys and Girls club at 413-534-7366

TESTING, from page 1

Friday, and Saturday; and 2-7 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. HCC asks people to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue and follow the signs to M lot, where the in-car testing will be held. The results from testing will typically come in within four days.

Those headed to the HCC campus don’t have to worry about coming in contact with students as most of HCC’s classes are being held remotely this semester. The exception of this being a non credit EMT training

program that requires some face to face training at the HCC Center for Health Education and Stimulation on Jarvis Avenue. Other classes that need face to face learning include clinical conditions such as nursing, radiological technology, veterinary technician, and medical assisting, though those classes will not be held in the same area that the testing is occurring.

Residents are encouraged to visit the testing site at HCC as it will be held until the end of October and it is free. Additionally, residents can stay in their cars and will have minimal contact with others.

Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD20P1578EA
Estate of:
Frederick W. Tauscher
Date of Death:
October 16, 2018
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **June E. Tiner** of Chicopee, MA.

June E. Tiner of Chicopee, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the

Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

9/25/2020

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Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

The Sun
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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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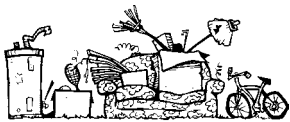
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PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

KELLY, from page 1

er through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. If you have not received notification, we do not believe that you have been in close contact with the individual based on the information that we currently have; we will keep folks informed as the need arises. If you believe you may have been exposed or

if you have any questions, please contact your school nurse.

As always, Holyoke Public Schools cares deeply about the health and well-being of our staff, students, and families. As such, we have notified the Holyoke Board of Health and strongly encourage staff and families to continue self-monitoring for COVID-19 related symptoms; we remind you to stay home if you are experiencing symptoms consistent with the virus. We

also remind you of the importance of following our reopening safety procedures which include wearing your face covering when you are in a space with others. Furthermore, as you know, we have increased our daily cleaning and disinfecting routines; as an added precaution, we have closed certain areas of the building in order to complete a deep clean. We thank our nursing and custodial staff for their on-going support with the added measures to keep our school

community safe.

If you experience symptoms of respiratory illness (fever, coughing or shortness of breath), please contact the School Nurse and contact your health-care provider. Please know that the Nursing and HR Department will keep all medical information confidential and will only disclose it on a need-to-know basis. For more information on COVID-19, including symptoms and treatment, visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov."

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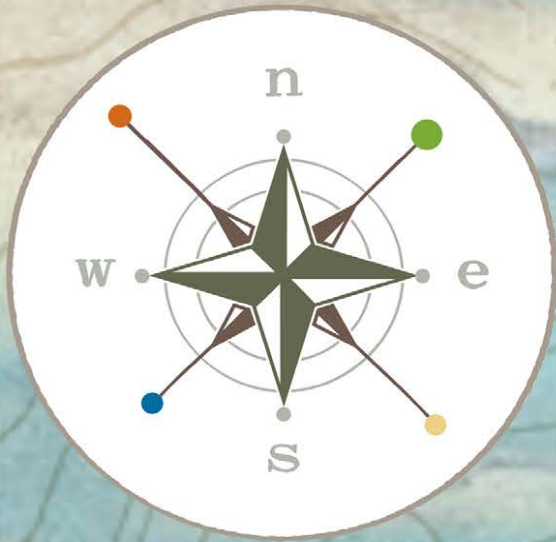
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